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Library Usage - Highlights

- 11th Best Direct Circulation in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts - Advanced from 15th. Behind only: Boston, Newton, Cambridge, Brookline, Worcester, Lexington, Quincy, Arlington, Wellesley, and Watertown
- 1,202 individuals signed up for library cards, bringing the number of cardholders to 16,168 - 64% of our residents!
- 6 % increase in overall circulation. Library patrons borrowed 565,840 items, making 2016 one of the highest in recent years
- 33 % increase in electronic media. Library patrons downloaded 36,449 ebooks, audiobooks, movies, and music selections
- 30 % increase in overall program participation. 18,408 children, teens, and adults attended 638 concerts, story times, book clubs, cooking demonstrations, hands-on workshops, and other library programs
- 23,718 people attended 859 meetings held at the Library (21% increase in offerings and 21% increase in the attendance at those meetings)
- Reference librarians answered 39,167 reference questions (11% increase)
- Public computers were used for 21,112 internet and online research sessions
- Increase in Facebook page activity with 889 “likes” (41% increase)
- Redesigned website which offers enhanced security, widely expanded features, improved navigation, and easier maintenance
- Museum passes funded once again by the Friends of the Belmont Public Library provided 2,528 free or discounted visits to area museums for families and individuals (3% increase)
- Amazing support from our volunteers. 137 individuals provided 4,278 hours to support library programs and services, including 113 high school students fulfilling their community service requirement (133% increase)

Year in Review: Summary of Activities and Accomplishments

Staffing

There were several key staff transitions this year.

In the Reference Department, Librarian Mary Carter was promoted to the newly-created post of Community Services Librarian, focusing on planning programs, collaborating with other organizations, and outreach. Her post, with its collection development responsibilities, was filled by Syuzanna Turshyan, who had previously worked for eight years at the Los Angeles Public Library.

In the Children's Department, new part time staff were brought on board in October to help oversee the Children's Department which is now open for regular evening hours 3 nights a week. We estimate over 7000 Children and Parents will receive services during these extended hours this year.

Adult Services

Expanding Digital Services

Once again, the Library expanded its offerings of digital materials to meet growing demand by patrons. Downloads of ebooks and audiobooks through Overdrive, a catalog shared by the entire Minuteman Library Network, grew 6% from 27,330 checkouts in 2015 to 29,907 checkouts in 2016. The Hoopla resource, to which we began subscribing as an individual library just over a year ago, saw downloads soar 87% from 2,866 to 5,361 as new content was added continually to their offerings of music, movies, TV shows, and graphic novels in addition to ebooks and audiobooks. By the end of the year, 994 Belmont residents had signed up for Hoopla.

To provide even more choices for patrons, the Library signed up in December for the Commonwealth Ebook Collection, an effort to provide affordable ebooks and audiobooks for all Massachusetts residents. That collection is made up of three collections that serve different audiences and needs. Axis 360 offers a selection of best-selling titles that should help patrons get their requests filled more quickly. EBL includes content across a wide range of academic, professional, and technical subject areas that may be difficult to find elsewhere. We also offer Biblioboard, a database offering exciting new fiction, popular comic books, award-winning videos, colorful children's books and much more. It has an extensive historical collection which offers self-published and indie authors a forum for sharing their work.

The Library is updating other types of electronic resources as well. The addition of Lynda.com, activated in January, has given patrons access to hundreds of video courses on topics like Word Press, LinkedIn, audio recording, digital photography, and marketing and branding. During this first year 128 different users sampled or completed 357 courses and viewed 3,476 videos.

The Library Staff continually 'weed' the collection and assess which books and resources are the most popular. Funds are allocated to those materials and resources that best meet patron needs. To make funds available for Lynda, the Library canceled its subscriptions to databases that patrons were using less than in the

past: Safari Books and Testing and Education Resource Center (TERC). Usage remained high for databases serving a wide range of interests. Patrons checked out 2,497 magazine issues through Zinio, the online magazine service. *The Economist*, *The New Yorker*, and *OK! Magazine* are the most popular titles. Our most frequently used subscription, the *Consumer Reports* website, was consulted 896 times, yielding 12,064 page views. Also popular were the Morningstar Investment Research Center (2,977 record views) and two of our history resources, the Historical Boston Globe and the Historical New York Times (783 and 686 record views, respectively), which are used by student and adult researchers alike.

Digitizing Local History Materials

After completing the digitization of the Town's Residents Lists, the Library worked with the Boston Public Library to digitize Belmont High School yearbooks from 1922 to 2016, as available, under the Digital Commonwealth program. The yearbooks can be viewed in the Internet Archive, www.archive.org.

With funding from a Community Preservation Act grant, the Library digitized its holdings of Belmont newspapers beginning in 1890. This extensive local history resource is available for patrons to read and search by keyword now.

Technology Related Instruction

Reference staff continued to offer a variety of workshops. Topics covered included instruction in Ancestry.com, the popular genealogy site available in-library which provides access to 16 billion historical records, including the complete US census records from 1790 to 1940, as well a comprehensive source of immigration records found online. The first workshop proved to be so helpful, that a second was scheduled at the request of several patrons.

Workshops were also scheduled for instruction in iPad basics, google photo and podcasting. Perhaps the most popular tech workshop was the "Cutting the Cord" session held at the Beech Street Center in early December. Drawing on the success of the library's circulating Rokus and streaming Hoopla services, reference librarians Ellen Girouard and Mary Carter walked patrons thru both free library offerings and pay for options such as Chromecast, Amazon Fire TV and plug-in antennas. This course had an overflowing crowd, and will be repeated in Spring 2017 at the library.

Advertising itself as open to ages 10-100, the library held back-to-back 3D printing workshops in November. Led by 3D printing expert, Newton Free Library Head of Technology, John Walsh, participants were taught the fundamentals of 3D design, and how to use Tinkercad to create a 3D snowflake. No design or 3D experience was necessary, and the library provided all equipment and software. Realizing the popularity of this program, staff added two additional laptops to the ten classroom ones to meet increased demands.

Also successful were several "pop-up" sessions held in the lobby of the library. These informal sessions gave patrons a quick opportunity to learn about digital library resources without having to schedule a one-on-one session or indeed even to plan ahead. Staff also got the opportunity to introduce a wide variety of patrons to resources either previously unknown or unfamiliar to them. Feedback from both patrons and staff reinforced the positive impact these interactions had for all.

Roku

Beginning in August, the library started circulating Rokus, streaming media devices that can be connected to either HD or standard televisions. Library Rokus come with 15 preloaded channels, including a subscription

to Netflix, as well as VUDU, a service that allows for digital streaming of titles already purchased for the library's DVD or Blu-ray collections. Aside from the first few days, the Rokus have never remained on the shelf, constantly circulating, usually with reservations. The library plans on doubling the number to eight in 2017, and will monitor usage to consider adding more subscription services.

One-on-One Tech Sessions

Reference staff, led by the Technology Librarian, offered flexible one-on-one technology instruction sessions. Rather than preset times, patrons were able to make individual appointments that fit their schedules and technology needs. Registration was made easier with a form available on the new Library website. Topics covered ranged from help with digital library resources, particularly Hoopla and Overdrive, as well as assistance filling out online forms, transferring photos, and help with Windows Office.

Programs for Education and Entertainment

The Library offered a total of 67 adult programs in 2016, featuring old favorites like the Friends' Author Series as well as some fresh new ideas. For example, in October the Library participated in the first nationwide Indie Author Day by hosting a panel of local authors and a publisher who spoke about their own experiences in working with publishers and on their own to bring their work before the public.

Other new types of programs have included a workshop on 3D printing for experimenters of all ages; a "Be Well" series that included meditation, getting organized, and having more productive conversations with your doctor; and monthly Saturday morning Tai Chi programs. In addition, the Reference, Children's and Young Adult Librarians collaborated to offer more inter-generational programming, which has resulted in successful events such as game nights, movie nights, and a bookmark contest in which over 70 patrons participated.

Large audiences continue to enjoy the Library's Music On Saturday concert series, which launched another great season in December with a holiday program by Boston Jazz Voices. In other music programming, cellist Mike Block drew a standing-room-only crowd in the spring. Mikes concert was brought to Belmont through a Local Cultural Council Grant, for which the Library is grateful. Arts and crafts programs, now offered at least every other month and led by a Reference Librarian, included origami jewelry, ornament-making, and wreath-making. They have attracted a loyal following.

Book Discussions

Library staff members continue to offer three different book discussion groups. The International Fiction Book Club, led by Young Adult Librarian Kylie Sparks one night a month, continues to draw from a following of 32 members plus many new faces. Novels discussed this year include award winners like Magda Szabo's *The Door* and Naguib Mahfouz's sweeping epic, *Palace Walk*, the first of his *Cairo Trilogy*. Also offered are the monthly classics discussion group at the Beech Street Center led by Reference Librarian Miriam MacNair, and the bimonthly Belmont book group led by Reference Librarian Nancy McColm, focusing on current literary fiction.

Books and Bites, the monthly book review program, continued to host local authors as well as book discussions. Authors Kate Clifford Larson on *Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter* and former Globe reporter Larry Tye on *Bobby Kennedy: The Making of a Liberal Icon* spoke about their research on the Kennedy

family. Other speakers were Henriette Lazaridis Power on *The Clover House*; Michael M. Greenburg on *The Court-Martial of Paul Revere*; and Beatrice Peltre on *My French Family Table*.

Collaboration with Community Partners

This year the Library offered 638 programs for adults, young adults, and teens, with a greater variety of programs than ever. Funding was often provided by the Friends of the Library. As mentioned previously, the Library also received a Local Cultural Council Grant, and Coordinated Family Community Engagement Grant mentioned earlier provided over 40 programs for FREE to Belmont residents through the Library.

A highlight of the year was the Library's sixth town-wide read, One Book One Belmont (OBOB). Fourteen co-sponsoring community organizations worked together on programs that explored themes in *The Boston Girl*, by local best-selling author Anita Diamant. The book became Belmont's top-circulating book of 2016, as readers fell in love with the main character, Addie Baum, the daughter of Russian immigrants who grew up in the tenements of the North End, saying she reminded them of a favorite relative.

OBOB programs during the month of April drew on the strengths of community partners and included: an exhibit called "Family Ties" by local artists at the Belmont Gallery of Art; a talk on the history of women's suffrage in Massachusetts sponsored by the Belmont Historical Society; a walking tour of the North End guided by the Women's Heritage Trail group; and a concert of jazz and klezmer music. The final program, a talk at the Beech Street Center by Anita Diamant with an introduction by author Stephen McCauley, attracted an audience of 300 people.

Launched in the spring as part of OBOB was a new collaborative effort called the Belmont Story Project, involving the Belmont Media Center, the Belmont Citizen-Herald, the Belmont Historical Society, and the Council on Aging. Modeled after NPR's StoryCorp, the Belmont Story Project was created to record and preserve the oral histories of Belmont residents, and make them available to all on the SoundCloud website, <https://soundcloud.com/belmont-story-project>.

To date, all the recordings have been made at the Library and the Media Center. Individuals who have stories to share are encouraged to bring a relative or friend to interview them. To encourage young people to interview elder family members over the holiday season, the library purchased recording equipment that cardholders may check out and take home.

Other Outreach

Belmont Veterans Agent Robert Upton acted as Master of Ceremonies at an event that saw over 80 attendees come to see the Library rededicated as a Memorial Building to the Veterans of American wars hailing from Belmont, with new lettering appearing on our Concord Avenue staircase. At this event the Town of Belmont proclaimed itself a Purple Heart Community. This turnout created a renewed relationship with the Veterans of Belmont, as Robert Upton determined that the Library was the best spot in town for an annual Purple Heart Ceremony honoring veterans each August, the first Purple Heart Ceremony took place later that summer on August 7th. This ceremony will now take place each year on August 7th, the National day of recognition for Purple Heart Recipients.

The weekly morning Conversation Circle for English Language Learners, instituted last year following discussions with Belmont High School ELL director Lindsey Rinder, was so successful that the Library decided to continue it and add an evening session for individuals who work during the day. A book club for more advanced English Language Learners was held several times in the fall. These classes were taught by volunteers Genevieve Mack and Moira Lucey.

In part to give English Language Learners more opportunity to practice conversational skills, the Library joined with the Belmont Public Schools and Belmont Against Racism to host a pizza lunch “Meet and Greet” in September. The event was intended to welcome families new to Belmont and new to the United States, and provide an opportunity for new neighbors to get to know each other better. The Library, the Schools, and BAR hope to offer gatherings like this every few months in the coming year.

In other outreach efforts focused on increasing public awareness of Library offerings, Library staff members participated in a variety of Town events, including Meet Belmont, Town Day, Career Night at Belmont High School, and a variety of Back to School Nights. Library staff members also set up a table once a month throughout the summer at the Belmont Farmers Market, where the community could find out about our upcoming programs, check out a bestseller, or enter a contest.

Professional Development

Reference staff attended training sessions to update skills and learn about new developments in their fields. These included webinars and in person training on identifying new electronic resources that might be of interest to patrons, such as the Commonwealth Ebook Collection, and utilizing better the ones we have already, such as Overdrive Digital Media, Ancestry.com, and LexisNexis. Classes on patron service included planning programs for patrons in their 20s and 30s, how to host an Indie Author Day, how to deal with difficult patrons. Webinars on readers’ advisory included sessions on women’s fiction, mysteries, and best bets for book groups.

Librarians also attended the New England Library Association annual meeting and the annual conference hosted by the Digital Commonwealth, a nonprofit that helps libraries, museums, and other cultural institutions digitize, preserve, and disseminate their historical collections. Library Director Peter Struzziero attended this conference as well presenting on Library Leadership and Management, and hosted a roundtable discussion for Directors in the first five years of their management career. This presentation has led to articles published in Public Libraries Magazine as Peter was added to the contributor list for this national publication.

Technology Librarian Ellen Girouard served first as vice-chair, then chair, of the MLN Key Users Interest Group, and other staff members attended Minuteman Library Network meetings for reference, young adult, and program planning.

Library Department Heads and Administration also participated in the Massachusetts Public Library Annual Conference, and Library Director Peter Struzziero represented Belmont at the American Library Association Conference in Orlando.

The Library enhanced ongoing partnerships with the emergency services departments participating in training sessions on life saving techniques with the Fire Department, and lock down safety training with the Police Department. These types of safety trainings will continue in 2017.

Young Adults

Participation in young adult programming continued to climb in 2016 with over 1,884 teens attending programs and events nearly doubling the numbers of the past years.

The Young Adult Librarian continued to host several popular monthly programs. The Homework and Hot Chocolate program continues to draw a large group of middle school students, the Teen Anime Club is

smaller but very dedicated. A new program, the Teen English Club, helps ELL students new to Belmont increase their vocabulary and improve their English. The Young Adult Librarian also worked with two teens to help them start their own Art Club. The Art Club now meets independently once a month during the school year and every week during the summer.

This year 50 teens participated in the summer reading program, logging a total of 322 books. Near 200 teens participated in the summer reading trivia program, summer movies, teen kick off party, and end of summer book swap. Scratch tickets were also a big hit this summer: teens won free coupons to Shake Shack in Harvard Square, Rancatores, Einstein's workshop and Chipotles.

Collaboration with Community Partners

2016 was a fruitful year for collaboration with the schools. Staff participated in the Chenery Winter Book Fair doing outreach to several classrooms about resources and programs at the Belmont Library. The Library collaborated with the Belmont High School Community Service Coordinator to host a group of 20 volunteers on Belmont's Day of Service. The Young Adult Librarian collaborated with the ELL director at the high school and with Belmont Against Racism to host a pizza luncheon to welcome new ELL (English Language Learners) families to the area. 100 people attended and new families got the opportunity to meet each other and meet other members of the community. Plans are currently being made to host similar gatherings next year.

The Children's Librarians and the Young Adult librarian also teamed up this year to create a new service opportunity for middle school students. The Community Service Club meets monthly. The students help to prepare craft materials for future children's programs.

Two creative writing class series were facilitated as well as individual writing workshops with published author and teacher Lynette Benton. The workshops were a hit, with over 50 teens participating. A group of several students presented their work in a public reading in December. Feedback from the courses has been very good and has generated a lot of interest from middle school students.

STEM Programming

2016 was another successful year for teen STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programming. The Library hosted the 2 seasons of Girls Who Code with 40 teen girls completing the program. Girls Who Code is an organization that equips girls with concrete technical skills that will provide the foundation for futures in technology. Several of the girls involved in the program are now considering making computer programming a future career choice as a result of their involvement with the club. One participant attended a Summer Immersion program with Girls Who Code and presented her project at an IT Conference in Las Vegas. A member of the community was so impressed with the program she wrote an article about it for Boston Tech Mom, an online magazine. The library offered two other STEM programs for middle school students: a Python programming class and a robotics workshop.

Other Initiatives

The Teen Advisory Board is now in its second year and has grown to 17 members. Each month the group meets with the Young Adult Librarian to work on volunteer projects and help plan teen programs. This year teens helped to make the scratch tickets for the summer reading program, gave feedback on the new teen website and helped to plan and carry out a fall party where teens played "minute to win it" games and got henna tattoos. 70 teens attended.

The entire Young Adult collection was weeded and then expanded this year. The manga and graphic novel collections were expanded. One new shelving unit was added to Young Adult Fiction area. The Young Adult Librarian created several reader advisory booklists for the new website to help patrons discover books to read from home and to assist other librarians in making recommendations.

Jane Gray Dustan Children's Room:

In 2016 the Jane Gray Dustan Children's Room added new part-time staff, opened for year-round evening hours for the first time, and vastly expanded community outreach. The librarians continued many of their successful programs and partnerships and added several new ones; a total of 357 programs were offered, with 13,441 children and caregivers attending, an increase of 11% over 2015.

Outreach

Due in part to the addition of the new Children's positions, this year the Children's librarians held 55 off-site programs, up 67% over the previous year's number of 33. The number of children and caregivers reached through outreach programming was 1,839, up 42% from the previous year's total of 1,299. The Librarians reached more of our youngest community members by visiting four Belmont preschools (Waverley Square Daycare, Wonder School, Little Sprouts Belmont, and Adventures Preschool). They also participated in several Belmont elementary school events, from Library Night at Butler Elementary School to International Walk to School Day at Wellington Elementary School.

Over the summer, for the first time, librarians presented weekly story times at the Underwood Playground. They also presented more weekly story times at the Belmont Farmers' Market than in past summers. They also conducted a story time at the first Literacy on the Lawn event held by the Belmont Woman's Club and visited the Belmont Summer Enrichment camp at Chenery Middle School. They continued visiting the town summer camp at Wellington School to present story/craft programs.

Summer Reading

More children participated in the summer reading program than in the previous year, this is a trend we've seen for three years in a row. The 2016 summer reading program was *Get in the Game, Read!*, which tied into the summer Olympic games. Children set their own reading goals for the summer and, when they reached their goal, chose a book as a prize. Pre-readers completed early literacy skill-building activities and also selected a book as a prize when they finished. The prizes were generously funded by the Friends of the Library.

Summer programming kicked off with a magic show by magician Scott Jameson and ended with *Mike the Bubble Man's* amazing bubble science. In the middle were a variety of activities and performances including concerts by award-winning performer Stacey Peasley and Seattle-based musician Charlie Hope.

Programs for Parents

This year the Children's Room expanded program offerings for parents of young children. The spring brought the library's first Early Childhood Information Fair, which was a success with over 100 people in attendance. Belmont preschools and day cares set up booths in the library and parents were able to talk with directors and teachers to get information about local child care options.

Through the library's continued participation in the Watertown/Belmont Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant program, in 2016 the library also offered several evening parenting

workshops presented by speech and language pathologist Megan Olowinski, on topics including “Getting Ready for Kindergarten” and “Getting Ready for Reading and Writing.”

Serving Children from Birth-5 Years Old

As a result of increasing community demand for programming for infants and toddlers, the library expanded offerings for these age groups. The story time for one year olds proved popular enough to warrant adding a second weekly session, and the monthly infant-toddler sing-along with Matt Heaton added to the schedule in the fall was an instant success. In June, Sheryl White of Baby Kneads led a four-week “Peaceful Baby” program for parents with their pre-mobile infants, which touched on sign language, baby massage, healthy sleep habits, and more.

The CFCE grant continues to provide weekly Literacy Playgroups at the Library, which grew in popularity throughout the year. Through the grant, an educator teaches sign language during our weekly librarian-led baby story times.

The Jane Gray Dustan Trust continues to fund a variety of programs for young children, including sing-alongs, music and movement classes with Belmont resident Rubi Lichauco, and the Musical Storytime series by Powers Music School.

Serving School-Age Children

This year the library assessed and revamped its offerings for school-aged children. The first series of Parent/Child Book Clubs was very well received, with each session filling well in advance and eager children and parents discussing a new book each month. The library also began a partnership with the Duct Tape Network, a local group that conducts maker programs for kids. A monthly StorYoga program provided children with a yoga-based learning experience that incorporates stories and yoga. Additionally, the Library continued offering popular monthly sessions of Book Buddies and LEGO WeDo robotics.

Vacation week programs had excellent attendance and included Mad Science, Animal World Experience, and a standing-room only crowd for the return of magician Ed Popielarczyk.

Intergenerational Programming

The Children’s Librarians worked with the Teen Librarian and a Reference Librarian to offer more intergenerational programs over 2016. For “Love Your Library” month in February, the Library held an all-ages bookmark contest that received 70 entries from children, teens, and adults of all ages.

To tie into One Book One Belmont, Children’s Librarians offered “Grandma, Grandpa, and Me” for children and their grandparents. Over the summer, the library offered a series of all-ages movie showings and monthly family game nights.

Volunteers

22 adults volunteered in 2016 for a total of 2,722 hours. 113 high school students gave 1556 hours for a total of 4278 volunteer hours, a 67% increase over 2015. Library volunteers supported the library in many ways including running weekly ESL classes, shelving books, assisting with program planning, providing one-on-one tech help to patrons, making home deliveries, and reviewing books for our “Books and Bites” monthly program. Students volunteered individually and at events like the Belmont High School Senior Day of Service, and often applied their hours to fulfill the school’s community service requirement. This year many teen volunteers chose to continue volunteering in the fall and winter after their service requirements had been fulfilled. This is new trend that we are pleased to see from the students in town.

Friends of the Belmont Public Library

Friends of the Belmont Public Library

The Friends of the Belmont Public Library continued to provide strong support for the library in 2016. The Friends sponsored many library programs, including the Music on Saturday series. They also had a very productive Library Friends Author Series with the following authors speaking; David Updike speaking about the life and work of his father, John Updike with *Family Archaeology in Pictures and Prose*, Jean Hanff Korelitz on *Admission*, Ted Reinstein of WCVB-TV Channel 5's 'Chronicle' on *Wicked Pissed: New England's Most Famous Feuds*, Anna Solomon on *Leaving Lucy Pear*, and J Patrick Black on *Ninth City Burning*.

In addition to programs, the Friends also paid for new chairs used in a lovely update to the Periodical Room. The Friends also paid for a new sign that was installed in the front of the Library providing better visibility and identification.

The Friends also funded the hiring of Good Egg Marketing and the Cahoots Company to develop a marketing plan and rebranding of the Belmont Public Library to be implemented in 2017.

The Library Friends Annual Book Sale in October was a success. The Friends' Everyday Book Sale continued to be a favorite spot among patrons as well. Special thanks to Louise Halstead and Phil Hughes for the time they contribute to manage that operation, close to 2000 a year. The Friends continued to fund the library's popular museum pass program. The museum pass program offers free and discount passes to many museums and parks. In 2016 The Library circulated 2,528 museum passes in 2016 (compared to 2,437 in 2015).

Notable Building Updates

In addition to the programming and staffing highlights shared above, it is important to note significant improvements made to the library facilities.

Key improvements made to the facility in 2016:

- The original elevator was upgraded with a new machine room. This upgrade modernized its operation reducing maintenance needs.
- A self checkout machine was installed in the Children's room
- 6 Panic Buttons were installed in various points throughout the building per the recommendation of the Belmont Police Department as Phase one of needed security updates
- The lettering of the lower staircase leading to Concord Avenue was replaced. New lettering was installed reading "Belmont Public Library Memorial Building 1965".
- One side of the main floor west wing was renovated into a new periodical room for patrons to enjoy comfortable reading of books, magazines, and newspapers. Original metal shelving was removed making way for new carpet, paint, and comfortable seating and new paperback shelving.
- Original metal shelving used as magazine storage on the 3rd floor mezzanine was removed to see the space converted into a new study area. College and High school aged students often enjoy the space, which is also being utilized by tutors.

- New stones and plants were added to the Memorial Garden this year by the Belmont Garden Club. It continues to be enjoyed by library patrons regularly as well as Library staff on lunch breaks.

In addition to these improvements, the Library Trustees and the Town Government enjoyed the first year of a Facilities Consolidation plan. We appreciate the efforts of the Facilities Director Gerry Boyle in working together on maintenance and up grades of different library systems. In 2017 we hope to see our Boiler replaced as approved by Town Meeting last spring, and an envelope project to begin upgrading the lights, ceiling, and insulation needs for the East and West wings, which will contribute significantly to reducing our energy costs once completed.

2016 was a year focused on the future. The building has stood for over 50 years now, and we look forward to the next 50 years of Library service in our community. We on the Board were pleased to see continued trends and changes to the programs and services provided by the library. Our Library Director Peter Struzziero has helped guide the staff to accomplish many of the goals in this first year under our new 5 year Long Range Plan which has elevated The Library to now be the 11th best circulating community in the Commonwealth out of over 370 public libraries, something we are all very proud of.

A Feasibility Study was conducted in 2016, exploring the possibilities to renovate, add on to, or replace the current building at 336 Concord Avenue. A report will be given to Town Meeting in 2017 outlining the findings of the committee and the recommendations of the Board of Library Trustees. All of the supporting documents, floor plans, computer modeling, and cost estimates can be found on our website www.belmontpubliclibrary.net The Board looks forward to our continued partnership with Town Government, Citizen Committees, and most importantly our Citizens to determine the best course of action for continued investment in our Programs, Services and Facility. Belmont.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Keohane, Chair
Board of Library Trustee